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VERMONT STATE AND COUNTY.

REPORT OF  
1954  
ANNUAL ASC CONFERENCE

April 29 - 30, 1954

HOTEL VERMONT  
BURLINGTON, VERMONT

THEME:  
"Stabilized  
Agricultural  
Production  
and  
Conservation"

.. COMMITTEES.



REPORT OF ANNUAL ASC CONFERENCE

Vermont State and County Committeemen, County Office Managers  
County Agents, and Guests

Held at Hotel Vermont, Burlington, Vermont, April 29-30, 1954

Foreword

This report presents the principal talks and committee reports of the 1954 Annual Vermont ASC Conference. The two-day conference brought together, through its three committees, the farmer thinking and recommendations which will form the groundwork for the months ahead in the program of work of the Vermont Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Office.

The recommendations included in the report are as they were approved by the entire conference. They will be later reviewed and considered by the Vermont State ASC Committee.

This 1954 conference emphasized the need for stabilized agricultural production and conservation.

We were pleased and felt honored that Walter Berger, Associate Administrator of the Commodity Stabilization Service and Fred G. Kitchie, Acting Administrator of the Agricultural Conservation Program Service, both of Washington, and Dr. William Colby, Head of the Department of Agronomy of the University of Massachusetts, were able to be with us. We were pleased also to welcome guests from the Maine and Massachusetts State ASC Offices.

We greatly appreciate the efforts and wholehearted cooperation of all who helped in any way in contributing to the success of our 1954 ASC Conference.

State Committee

L. Earl Wilson, Chairman  
Hugh E. Evans, Vice Chairman  
James W. Williams, Member

State Office

A. F. Heald, Administrative Officer  
E. N. Blondin, Fieldman  
C. B. Doane, Fieldman

CONFERENCE THEME

Stabilized Agricultural Production and Conservation

The fact that world economic conditions change rapidly and that they affect agriculture has been amply illustrated in the last few years. First, we need more production -- then, better distribution -- then, more consumption -- then, more of some crops and less of others. This means our Farm Program must be flexible and must be understood by a lot of people, particularly Farm People.

The system of farmer-elected county and community committee-men has met this challenge over the years and can meet it in the future.

During this conference we should keep in mind our theme, "Stabilized Agricultural Production and Conservation." We should look for ways and means of building up our soils while producing necessary crops.

The 1955 ACP will be the 20th year of this type of conservation work in Vermont. Let's make it the best year of all.

## A G E N D A

Vermont State ASC Conference  
April 29 - 30, 1954  
Hotel Vermont, Burlington, Vermont

### Program - April 29

9:00 a.m. Register, get name tags and banquet tickets  
to at Conference Registration Desk in Lobby.  
10:00 a.m.

#### Conference Opened by Hugh E. Evans, Presiding

10:00 a.m.	Conference Goals Introduction of Delegates and Guests	L. Earl Wilson, Chairman State ASC Committee
10:15 a.m.	The Place of Minerals in Our New England Agriculture  Discussion	Dr. William Colby, Head, Department of Agronomy, University of Mass.
11:15 a.m.	The New Challenge to ACP	Fred Ritchie, Acting Administrator, ACPS
12:15 p.m.	Lunch	

#### L. Earl Wilson, Presiding

1:15 p.m.	State Committee Nominations	Hugh E. Evans State ASC Committeeman
1:30 p.m.	Conference Committee Assignments  A. Program Planning Committee  B. ACP Program Operations Committee  C. Administrative Problems and Related Activities Committee	
1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Conference Committee Meetings	

CONFERENCE BANQUET

April 29, 1954

6:30 p.m. --- Main Dining Room

Toastmaster --- George D. Bailey  
Vermont State Committee Alumnus

PROGRAM

First You See It -- Then You Don't

Dr. John A. Newlander  
University of Vermont

Set-up and Responsibility of CSS

Walter C. Berger, Associate  
Administrator, Commodity  
Stabilization Service

Work of the President's National  
Agricultural Commission

E. Francis Branion, Member of  
President's Commission and  
Vermont State Committee Alumnus

Program - April 30

James W. Williams, Presiding

9:00 a.m.	Suggestions for SCD-ACP Cooperation	Willard Arms, President SCD Supervisors
9:15 a.m.	How I Use ACP in My Extension Program	William Stone Windsor County Agent
9:45 a.m.	Changes in SCS Set-up as They Affect Vermont	L. J. Peet, SCS State Conservationist
10:15 a.m.	How to Stimulate More Forestry Practices	A. W. Gottlieb, Vermont State Forest Service and Gerald Wheeler U. S. Forest Service
10:45 a.m.	Suggestions for Handling the Conserva- tion Information Program	R. P. Davison, Associate Director of Extension, UVM
11:15 a.m.	Question Period	
12:00 noon	Lunch	
		<u>L. Earl Wilson, Presiding</u>
1:30 p.m.	Report of Committee on Program Planning	Hugh E. Evans State ASC Committeeman
	Discussion - Changes - Adoption	
2:00 p.m.	Report of Committee on ACP Program Operations	L. Earl Wilson, Chairman State ASC Committee
	Discussion - Changes - Adoption	
2:30 p.m.	Report of Committee on Administrative Problems and Related Activities	James W. Williams State ASC Committeeman
	Discussion - Changes - Adoption	
3:00 p.m.	Nominations for State Committee	Hugh E. Evans State ASC Committeeman
3:30 p.m.	Conference Summary	L. Earl Wilson, Chairman State ASC Committee
3:45 p.m.	Adjourn	

Conference Committee Assignments

I. PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE

Hugh E. Evans, Chairman  
Howard A. Foster, Vice Chairman  
Almon F. Heald, Secretary

<u>COMMITTEEMEN</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
Howard A. Foster	Addison
E. W. Mattison	Bennington
Norman Lowe	Caledonia
Raymond G. Howley	Chittenden*
Fritz Farmer	Essex
Floyd Weld	Franklin
Alan K. Kinney.	Grand Isle
Lawrence Gregory	Lamoille
F. Milo Leighton	Orange
Robert P. Kilborn	Orleans
Roy A. Burroughs	Rutland
D. Drew Bisbee	Washington
Robert E. Gaines	Windham
Kuel Abbott	Windsor

II. ACP PROGRAM OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

L. Earl Wilson, Chairman  
Lloyd Jewett, Vice Chairman  
Charles B. Doane, Secretary

<u>COMMITTEEMEN</u>	<u>COUNTY OFFICE MANAGER</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
Robert C. Highter	Edla Browne	Addison
Ball L. Lyons		Bennington
Donald Larocque	Mildred Murphy	Caledonia
Ray J. Collins		Chittenden
C. E. Wright	Mildred Bell	Essex
B. Frank Myott		Franklin
Ernest G. Prairie	Grace Hazen	Grand Isle
Arthur Stancliff		Lamoille
Edson E. Gifford	Louise Kand	Orange
Clyde S. Vance		Orleans
James E. Brayton	Bethany French	Rutland
W. J. Bisson		Washington
Claude Bensenhaver	Mae Carpenter	Windham
Lloyd Jewett		Windsor

\*Gay Baldwin will serve on committee of his choice if he is able to attend the conference.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

J. W. Williams, Chairman  
Stuart Newton, Vice Chairman  
Edward N. Blondin, Secretary

<u>COMMITTEEMEN</u>	<u>COUNTY OFFICE MANAGER</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
Sedgewick Preston		Addison
Clyde H. Bryant	John DeVito	Bennington
Arthur Messier		Caledonia
Frank R. O'Brien	Dorothy Howard	Chittenden
Ray W. French		Essex
Stuart Newton	Avis Bronson	Franklin
George Caswell		Grand Isle
Howard T. Kittell	Hazel Hoyt	Lamoille
Walter Wheatley		Orange
Eldon Lucier	Patricia Norway	Orleans
Charles L. Winslow		Rutland
Everett Walbridge	Marjorie Leith	Washington
Myron W. Allen		Windham
Max Rogers	Betty Dutton	Windsor



OPENING REMARKS

By L. Earl Wilson, Chairman, Vermont ASC State Committee  
at the  
Annual Vermont ASC Conference  
Hotel Vermont, Burlington, Vermont

April 29, 1954

Once again for around the 19th time we are meeting for our annual conference. There have been many changes during that period of time but our deliberations and recommendations have been in line with existing conditions.

Our function as committees has been primarily with the Agricultural Conservation Program. Therefore, our purpose is to develop and recommend an Agricultural Conservation Program for 1955 that is best adapted to our individual counties and the State as a whole.

The State Committee has planned a working conference taking up the Agricultural Conservation Program, Administration and Related Activities we are responsible for. I feel confident this conference will prove successful.



# THE PLACE OF MINERALS IN OUR NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURE

Résumé of Talk Given by Dr. William Colby, Head  
Department of Agronomy, University of Massachusetts  
at the State ASC Conference  
Burlington, Vermont - April 29, 1954

Nature adjusts the natural vegetative cover of land to its inherent capacity to support plant growth. In regions of moderate rainfall, where soils are well supplied with essential minerals, rich, lush, fast-growing grasses form the natural cover. In regions of high rainfall, where essential nutrients tend to leach out of the soil, slow-growing, woody plants, such as trees and shrubs, make up the natural cover. The natural cover in all of New England was woody in character.

Forest soils differ from natural grassland soils in the amount and distribution of soil organic matter. The organic matter in forest soils is not only small in quantity but it is confined to a relatively shallow layer of leaf mold at the surface of the soil. In grassland soils the soil organic matter extends to the depth of the penetration of grass roots, which may be several feet.

This thin layer of organic matter in our forest soils played a very important role in promoting plant growth:

1. It was a storehouse for essential plant nutrients.
2. Various decomposition products, organic in nature, prevented soluble iron, manganese and aluminum, usually present in large quantities in acid soils, from adversely affecting plant growth.
3. Acted as a "sponge" for rain water, greatly reducing surface run-off and promoted good soil structure development so that water penetrated rapidly into the soil.

When the land was cleared and planted to crops, the reserve of native fertility of our New England soils lasted for a generation or so. Old areas were abandoned and new ones cleared in order to maintain crop yields. When new land for clearing was exhausted, new sources of fertility were exploited. Animal manures, composts, peat, muck, waste products of the meat and fish packing industry and other miscellaneous organic waste materials, were all used as fertilizers for crops for the most of the nineteenth century. Toward the latter part of the century, mineral fertilizers were introduced and the trend from organic fertilizers to inorganic or mineral fertilizers has since continued until organic fertilizers are used in limited quantities for specialized crops such as tobacco.

## Pot Demonstration:

The pot demonstration was intended to show the importance of decomposing organic matter and ground limestone in promoting plant growth.

1. No Treatment -- Very poor growth
2. Lime alone -- Small improvement
3. Complete Fertilizer -- Poor to fair growth

4. Lime plus Fertilizer -- Good growth

5. Well rotted manure -- Good growth

The lime and well rotted manure seemed to be doing the same thing in promoting plant growth. We think they were keeping toxic iron, aluminum and manganese from adversely affecting plant growths. The experiment illustrates the importance of liming acid soils, particularly those low in organic matter.

The demonstration on phosphate fixation was designed to show how the products of decomposing manure or organic matter, complex or combine with iron or aluminum so that any phosphate present remains soluble and readily available to growing plants. We think that the well rotted manure and the limestone in the pot experiment were doing just that -- keeping phosphates soluble and available to the growing millet. The soundness of the practice of using superphosphate in dairy barn gutters was emphasized.

In the use of potash on legumes it was pointed out that potash must be applied in small quantities frequently. The ideal way is to top dress, after each mowing, or each grazing, with 100 pounds of muriate of potash to the acre.

In summary it was pointed out that where fertilizer levels were not maintained, land quickly reverted to trees. The cost of re-clearing such land is very high. In the speaker's opinion, it was to the public benefit to keep our present agricultural land in active state of production and that the use of public monies through the ACP program to accomplish this end was completely justified. The ACP provides an opportunity for the public to join with the farmer in building up and conserving our soil resources -- the most important natural resource we have.

THE NEW CHALLENGE TO ACP

ADDRESS BY FRED RITCHIE, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR,  
AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM SERVICE  
at the Vermont State ASC Conference  
Burlington, Vermont - May 29, 1954

I appreciate this opportunity to visit Vermont and especially to talk with county committeemen.

We all should appreciate the cooperative efforts in conservation, the way you committeemen, the county agents, Forest Service, and Soil Conservation Service people are working together. The ACP program is actually a program for more than farmers. It is a program for all the people of these United States because, not only do farmers benefit from conservation, but all wage earners, productionists and everyone else are expected to continue to eat well, be well clothed over the years as our population increases and unanimously have a sense of obligation to provide a strong agriculture and a strong, fertile, well-preserved farm on which the benefits of research, education and technical services bring forth what the country will need down through the next decade.

The ACP is actually just a small part of the total conservation program and the conservation program is only one part of the total agricultural program in this country. We have got to have sound research on what needs to be done and how to do it. We also have to have a good educational program to get to farmers the benefits and the effects of the ACP program. We have to have good technical help for the farmers to provide them with those special skills that farmers wouldn't be expected to learn by themselves because they don't expect to use them every year, maybe only a few times in their lives. It is only after those things have been brought into full use and availability that cost-sharing under the Agricultural Conservation Program can begin to have its greatest impact on added conservation of the soil. The cost-sharing program, as we call ACP, is merely a means by which the public as a whole can share with farmers the costs of conservation and to make it possible for farmers to undertake conservation work which is needed and which the farmer would not otherwise feel that he can carry out with his own resources from the benefits that would come back to him personally from the increase in productivity of his land or increased value of his soil.

I guess we will be getting down to the real elementals of the ACP which is a means by which people who are dependent upon farms but do not live on them can help with us as farmers to assure themselves of the continued supply of food and fibre with which to maintain the cities, maintain the factories and maintain labor throughout the United States.

One of the big challenges to agriculture which we all meet from time to time is, not only the problem of maintaining an adequate supply of agricultural products, but the problems that arise at times when the production of these things outgrows the immediate need and many of you have encountered those as personal problems which apply in a more

or less degree throughout the whole country. It isn't enough just to be sure that you have exactly enough farm produce to provide what people need. There has to be a reasonable backlog for emergencies, wars, droughts, or some disaster which takes out the year's production of agricultural goods. At the same time you can't, it seems to me, build your surpluses so big that warehouses won't hold them.

There has to be a continued effort on the part of farmers and the general public working together to improve and maintain soil for the country by storing reserves in the ground which, over a period of years in times of great emergencies, can be drawn on to provide the stepped up production which has to be made available for our use here and, as we so well know, in the past few years, the use it has been put to for meeting problems which apply to us as a member of the family of NATO.

One of the problems which we are going through now on agriculture as a whole is the problem of adjusting from war-time to peace-time, getting the production back into balance with what is the current demand for agricultural goods. Through the ACP, we are trying to carry through the 1954 program which would result from this wide consultation and consideration throughout the country which has never been given to the National Agricultural Conservation Program.

Your recommendations to the State group are being made here, I understand, so as to be formulated into State recommendations and sent in to us in Washington. Last year by that process, when we got through accumulating the things the states had recommended to us as being the thinking of the State and county committees and representatives of the other agricultural agencies, we compiled them by subject matter so we could look at them and know what all of you had said on any one subject (as I remember, we had well over 150 typed pages), and we tried to see what you people over the country as a whole were thinking. If I can urge one thing of you here at this meeting, don't feel any hesitancy about getting pretty literary and writing all you want to because your sister states around the Nation are probably going to do the same thing.

What we do have, as you so well know, is the problem of carrying through the 1954 program at the same time as we are getting together whatever policies and principles that will need to be observed for the 1955 program. One of the things that we are obligated to do, all of us, as committeemen, office managers, county agents, technical workers, conservationists - whatever we may do that deals with ACP - is to keep before us in making our recommendations the dual responsibility that ACP has in helping the farmers and in carrying out the program. If we are going to continue to have public support for this kind of a program, we must be able in our administration of it, not only to make a program that is workable itself and efficient for farmers, but do it in a manner by which we can maintain the support of non-farmers by its being something that wisely invests the dollar that they spend. I suppose roughly somewhere around 75% of the dollar that goes into ACP comes out of taxes which are paid by people

who do not live on farms. While we all of us, especially those that work mostly with the program, might be inclined at times to hope to lean awfully heavily on doing everything that would be of interest to the farmers, we can't quite go to that extent and always maintain the support that will be required if we are going to continue an Agricultural Conservation Program in this Nation.

Now I'll say something about permanent or enduring practices. Actually, when we have talked about practices or encouraging practices which have the most enduring benefits, we are in a sense saying, "Let's try to work the program in such a way that it will be of greatest benefit not only to the farmer but to the public as a whole." I don't suppose any of us as farmers would undertake a conservation practice which pays off less than by doing it in some other manner. In the discussion that you had here with Dr. Colby about whether or not you might not be better off to increase the application of phosphate in preparation for seeding, it would appear at least on the surface to be a more efficient way and better for the farmer of helping conserve than to have repeated applications.

In 1955, we are going to have possibly some different problems to face both at home and across the whole Nation on what type of a program we must emphasize to undertake. A great deal has been said in the press and over the radio and otherwise about the problem that faces this country over what is called diverted acres - land that up to very recently was being planted with such crops as wheat, cotton and corn and which this imposition of acreage allotments would call for a reduction in the acreage for those crops - and is now land that is free for 1954 to move into whatever channel of production the individual farmer wants to put it in to. A lot of thought seems to be going on that for 1955 something is going to have to be done to at least help prevent those acres that come out of these crops from becoming sources of substantial danger to farms elsewhere because of this shifting out of cotton into another crop. I guess in a sense proportionately you don't have in Vermont such a huge acreage being taken out of these various crops which might be looked upon as diverted acreage - land that is being used for other crop use. At the same time, I am sure that you are well aware of the impact and the possibilities of excesses that may come of the things which you grow if the lands that are diverted from crops elsewhere move into things which you depend on as your primary source of agricultural income. I don't know what the ultimate answer is of how to work out this matter of keeping diverted acreage from becoming a production problem or what the answer will be, but we have asked the Congress to increase the ACP appropriation for authorization for 1955 from the present \$195 million to \$250 million. That increase was justified by the fact that there will likely be the country over more land being shifted from one crop use to another than we have had. There will be an additional opportunity to help the farmer who is making these land-use adjustments improve and take care of land that he is taking out of actual crop production in 1955. It is a National problem and, when you look at where these diverted acres are on the map, you will see that they are all over the whole country. So we

haven't tried to ask for a separate conservation program for these diverted acres. We have asked that it be a part of the regular program and that we increase the size of the program and that we take the increased program and divide the funds out among the states as we always have, not in any special state, but each state that has a substantial problem of land being shifted from one produce to another by this alteration program. Those states should concentrate on taking care of that kind of land, conserving it and improving it for two purposes (1) it may be available next year where ordinarily it would not be available for conservation treatment, and (2) as much of that land as we are able to get fathered by cost-sharing to put into conserving usage and take care of seems to kind of ease off some of the problems of production balance that we might otherwise have.

I want to mention that, because there has been quite a bit of misunderstanding as to why we asked for additional money. Some people say we asked for 55 million dollars more for diverted acres. We didn't. We asked for 250 million dollars for an over-all program which was to apply as much of the states' costs in treating this diverted acreage problem as the people in the state felt they needed to apply and not to divide it up in some separate program.

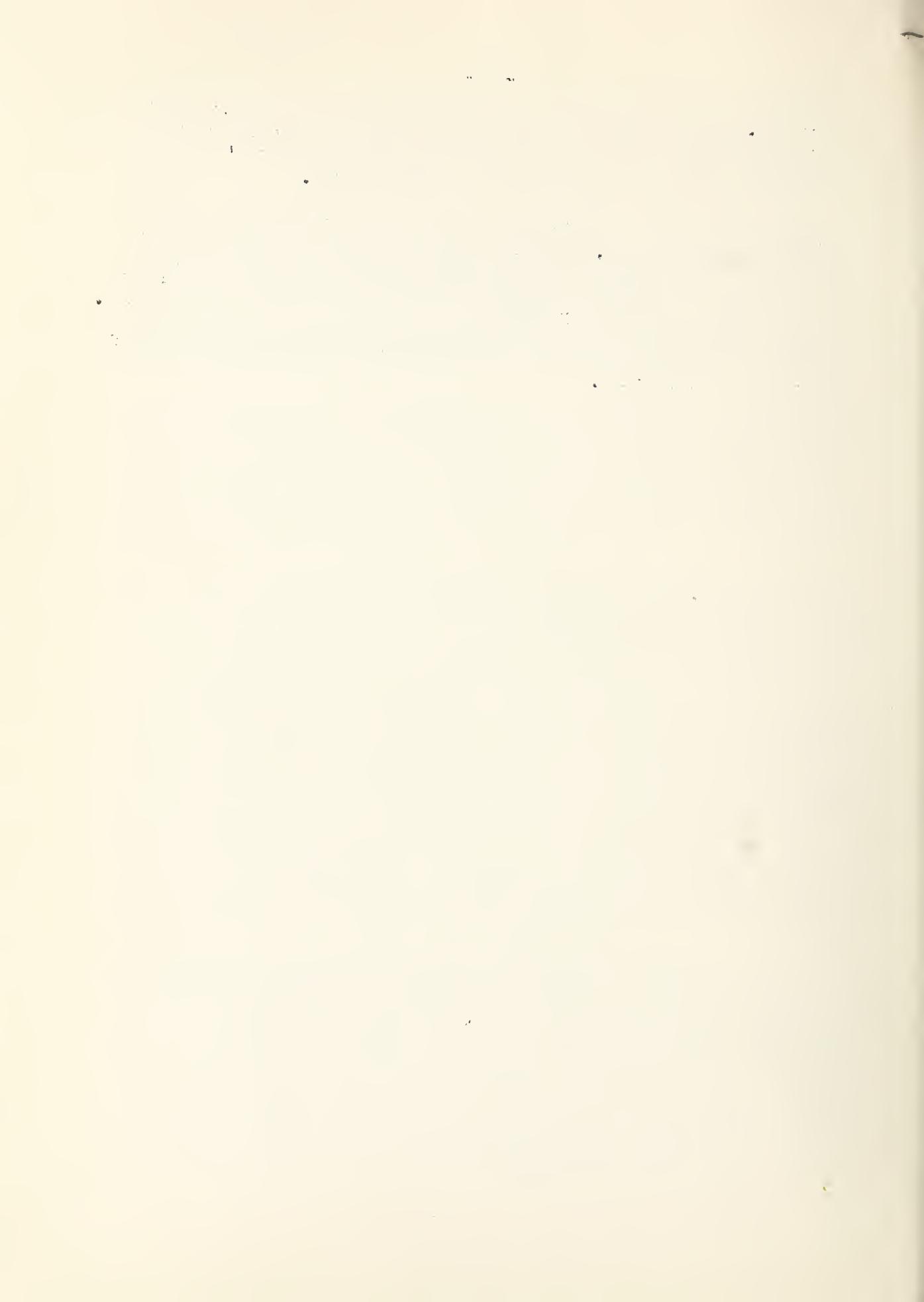
We have had a good many rough changes from the 1954 ACP in the sense that they have been not necessarily new trends or necessary complete changes in policies which have been in the making for many years which have been coming about through Congressional action through recommendations of people from various states just like you people meeting here and we may have and I expect we will have some rather substantial administrative problems in 1954. I would hope that, in your deliberation of what you will recommend at the State level of the changes, if any, that you want in the program from a National standpoint for 1955, you can do the best possible job in getting additional conservation in your counties and hope that you will consider policies and proposals that we adopted for 1954 very critically. If they are sound, let's try to analyze them and find a way of making them work better. If they are wrong, let's say so and get rid of them. If they are good in principle and absolutely impossible for application, let's see what is the next best thing. I don't know of any other suggestions that I would have about the 1955 recommendations.

We are hoping that we will be able to continue as fully as we have in 1954 the opportunity for states and counties to further adapt whatever the National program is to meet your own particular needs. You are of course well aware that what the other 47 states are recommending may not necessarily coincide with what you people want. On the other hand, I doubt if it ever will. So there will have to be an element and judgment exercised somewhere along the line as to how far we can go to meet the wishes of all the states without going contrary to the basic National policies that Congress as a whole must support and the people outside on farms <sup>and</sup> in cities must support to the extent that we would not have authority or appropriation for continuing the

program. I guess one of the things we always have to worry about is getting away from those things that we have been doing in the past and that we have gotten up to the point that we don't want to move away from them and move on to something else.

I want to assure you again that we are extremely desirous of your sound recommendations. We want to know what you think you need in the way of a National program to keep you in a setting where you can do the right kind of a job at home and we hope that we will get just as close to giving you exactly what you need as we possibly can.

I want to again thank you for letting me come up here and visit with you for a few minutes.



## SET-UP AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CSS

Address by Walter C. Berger, Associate Administrator, CSS  
at the Vermont State ASC Conference  
Burlington, Vermont, April 29, 1954

The following is an outline of the talk given by Mr. Berger at the annual conference banquet.

### Opening Remarks

My first chance to visit New England since I came back to Washington the middle of March.

I say "came back" because I served for several years as head of the Feed Division of the War Food Administration.

I was raised on a Midwest farm, and have worked with agriculture all my life.

It is a great satisfaction to have the opportunity now to work with people like you who have devoted your whole lives to agricultural production and the solution of agricultural problems.

### The Committee System

The farmer committees -- the ASC committees as we know them now -- are the very backbone of farm program administration.

The county and community committeemen, elected by their neighbors, operate in some three thousand counties throughout the country. They are a representative group of farm leaders -- a powerful force for the good of agriculture.

Your committee system here in Vermont has a long and outstanding record for service. Ely Wickham has told me about some of your achievements.

- (a) I understand, for instance, that Vermont was the first State to develop the plan of rotating members of the State Committee -- to see that no man had to carry the burden of committee service too long, and that new ideas and new blood could be made available at regular intervals. It must be a source of real satisfaction to you that your plan has now been adopted for the whole country. We are going to rotate the appointments so that a new man will be named to each State Committee every year or so.
- (b) I am also told that your record for cooperating with the agricultural college of your State, its Extension Service, and all other farm groups has been outstanding. This is the sort of cooperation we need to accomplish the greatest possible good for agriculture.

- 2-7-10
- (c) You in Vermont -- like the committeemen in other New England States -- have taken the leadership in directing available programs to the strengthening of your basic farm resources, particularly in the establishment of better grasslands.

Vermont can well be proud of your record, as it can of the record of so many of your distinguished citizens.

I am thinking now particularly of Senator George Aiken, the able and respected chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture. Few men in America have done so much for the cause of Agriculture, or have fought so consistently for wise and constructive agricultural policies.

#### The Job Ahead for the Committees

I have been asked to say something about the job ahead for the committee system -- how can it operate best under the new administrative set-up in Washington?

The simple and direct answer to that is that you can serve best by continuing very much as in the past. You have essentially the same programs to administer, and the same objectives to reach. There are some changes in emphasis, and some improvements in programs and operations, but basically you still have the same over-all responsibilities.

The Commodity Stabilization Service (CSS) is handling all the programs which were in the former PWA, except for marketing programs and services -- and the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP). And in the case of ACP, the field administration still rests with your farmer committee system. Another agency in Washington determines national policy, but the program is taken to farmers as it was before.

And I see nothing in the way of program changes in the near future which will materially affect committee operations or responsibilities. You will get all the help we can give you from Washington, and we hope that you will continue your effective service in the field, in all ways.

#### The General Situation Today

It's a good thing that the committee system, like the Department of Agriculture itself, is well organized to undertake tough jobs today.

We are in a period of forced transition from war- to peace-time needs.

Big production, geared to meet emergency demands, was continued too long -- after exports fell off.

Surpluses were the inevitable result.

This year we have the biggest carry-overs in history:

- Around 900 million bushels of corn.
- More than 875 million bushels of wheat.
- More than  $9\frac{1}{2}$  million bales of cotton.
- Same general situation for many other commodities.

#### We Face Big Storage Job

One of the toughest and most immediate jobs before us is to find enough space to store grain and related commodities when 1954 crops come in. They will have to be stored "on top of" these huge carry-overs.

We now expect from 300 to 500 million bushels more of grain and oil seeds than a year ago -- in the total supplies after harvest.

We have some more space than last year -- as a result of various programs started in 1953 -- but still face a storage shortage.

Must find at least 200 million bushels more this year to handle crops, and farmers themselves are in best position to do something about it -- in time.

This storage problem is of more immediate concern in the Grain Belt, but it is part of the whole agricultural picture.

#### CCC Holdings Complicate Things

The situation is complicated by the very heavy CCC holdings, and the big take-over job at the end of price-support loan years.

CCC holds, in inventory or as security for loans:

- Nearly a billion bushels of wheat.
- More than three-quarters of billion bushels of corn.
- More than 8 million bales of cotton.
- Heavy volumes of small grains, oils, and other commodities.

#### Surpluses Would Last Long Time

A measure of just how big the surpluses are is found in estimates of how long the carry-overs would carry us if we harvested no crops this year:

We will have enough old wheat -- before the 1954 crop -- to meet all domestic requirements (food, feed, and seed) for well over a year at present rates of use. In fact, we will have enough old wheat to meet our United States needs for human food for nearly two years.

We will have enough old cotton to meet domestic requirements for about 13 months; enough cotton linters for a year's needs, and enough of cotton-seed oil for two-thirds of a year -- at current rates of domestic use.

Linseed oil supplies, most of which are in government hands, are equal to about a year's use.

And even in the case of dairy products, which are not as storable as these others, CCC alone is holding enough butter for about three and one-half months of ordinary consumption, enough cheese for about five months, and enough dried milk for nearly ten months -- if no more were processed and available for the market.

We announced a program last week which will help materially in moving some of this troublesome dairy surplus. Dried nonfat milk solids will be sold to the domestic feed industry -- to help make up shortage of soybean meal, etc. (fill in some of detail of plan).

This program of importance to you in the Northeast -- helps to stabilize supply and market of needed feeds for your dairy and poultry operations.

#### Liquidating Surpluses

It is clear that one of our toughest and most immediate jobs is the liquidation of these burdensome surplus holdings.

The whole world is watching to see what we do with the surpluses -- how wisely we plan their disposal.

There are hungry people abroad, but there are money problems (including exchange difficulties), eating habits of the people, and other problems to be considered.

Both at home and abroad, we are using all the special outlets we can -- school lunch, welfare institutions, general relief programs.

We are disposing of oldest holdings (as in the case of 1948-crop corn).

Selling on world market.

Dairy products (not storable for too long) offer one of toughest problems. Starting promotion work, and developing special disposal plans.

Administration bending all its energies to this disposal job. Top-rank teams going abroad to comb the prospective markets carefully. Also working on domestic angles.

Must do whole disposal job with least possible disturbance of normal commercial marketing.

#### Need Reserves -- But Not Too Much

Everyone knows we need safe and adequate reserves of the various storable commodities -- to insure continued supplies in case of drought or other natural disaster, or to help meet unexpected emergency demands.

But enough is enough. Too much helps nobody, tends to break farm prices, and endangers the farm programs themselves.

### The New Farm Program

The President's new farm program recommendations were developed against the background of this whole situation.

It was obvious that we could not go on indefinitely the way we were.

With the national debt crowding the 275 billion dollar ceiling, the investment of additional billions in farm programs was even more serious.

Something had to be done to get the farm programs on a sound long-range basis -- on a basis which would build farm prosperity for peace-time conditions, and not depend on war emergencies for success.

You are familiar with the program proposals. I will not take the time to review them in detail. The highlights include:

(1) A return to the variable price-support provisions of the Agricultural Acts of 1948-49 -- with less incentives for over-production and more opportunity for balanced production in line with market needs.

(The Agricultural Act of 1949, passed in Congress on a bi-partisan basis, provided for variable price supports on the six basic commodities -- ranging from 75 to 90 percent of parity in accordance with the supply levels. The President's program, in effect, merely proposes putting these provisions into effect after this year. Because of "emergency" amendments, the 75 to 90 percent variable range never was given a chance to work).

(2) A gradual transition to the modernized parity formula for the four basic commodities which are the only ones still on the old 1909-14 base.

(3) More effective emphasis on widening and holding markets for our farm products -- both at home and abroad.

(4) The set-aside and "isolation" of two and one-half billion dollars worth of our inherited surpluses, removing them from the market and from price support calculations -- to give the new programs a chance to work.

(5) Strengthening and broadening the marketing order and agreement programs. You in the Northeast have had first-hand experience with these programs, especially for milk, and you know that they can be very helpful.

There are many other provisions. Taken together, the recommendations are the basis for the sort of forward-looking, sound program agriculture must have.

### Conclusion

You and I know the vital need for a sound and prosperous agriculture.

In final analysis, the entire economy depends on the welfare of the farmer.

The new program fully recognizes this basic fact. It aims at conditions which will permit agriculture to develop and hold its rightful place in a dynamic, progressive national economy.

The common objective -- both for you in the farmer committee system and for us in Washington -- must be to see that the farmer is in the soundest possible position.

I am very optimistic about the future. If we solve our current problems wisely, and plan future actions carefully, the road ahead looks broad and straight.

If we work together, we cannot fail.

## WORK OF THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Address by E. Frank Branen, Member  
President's National Agricultural Advisory Commission  
at the Vermont State ASC Conference  
Burlington, Vermont, April 29, 1954

Mr. Branen gave a very interesting talk at the conference banquet on the work of the President's National Agricultural Advisory Commission. He spoke from notes, consequently a detailed copy of his speech is not available. Some of the items of his talk are summarized as follows:

- A. How the National Agricultural Advisory Commission was set up.
- B. Work of the Commission.
- C. The President's Program.
- D. Price Support Program (1948-1949 and the present pending legislation)
- E. Parity - new parity and its effects.
- F. Acreage Allotments - payments for same, used for conservation practices on diverted acres.
- G. Underemployment on Poor Farms.
- H. Should underemployed farmers be moved into industry?
- I. Administration's Program for Dairy Farmers.
- J. Kind of ACP I think the Administration favors.

This talk gave those present a good deal of information and a very clear picture of the work of this Advisory Commission.



SUGGESTIONS FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN  
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS AND ACP

Address by Willard C. Arms, President  
Vermont Association of SCD Supervisors  
at the State ASC Conference  
Burlington, Vermont - April 30, 1954

As a participant in both the programs of the Soil Conservation Districts and the ACP since both were organized in Vermont, the speaker has worked willingly with both and never regretted any part of it. So, although today I represent the Soil Conservation District Supervisors, I am just as much interested in the ACP viewpoint.

Cooperation is suggested by our name and the fact that we both have soil conservation as our objective. We both have need of assistance from the soil conservation services and so are dependent upon the tax payers.

During the early days of the district when the supervisors were discussing the fertilizer and lime recommendations in our farm plans, I remember saying that we should get together with PMA (as the ACP was then known). It has turned out just that way - that we need each other to carry out soil conservation effectively. It takes teamwork to use to the best advantage all the resources available. And we do have teamwork, because there are many Soil Conservation Supervisors serving on the ACP committee and most of the committeemen are cooperators in their district.

On the other hand, districts have need for the ACP program for practices which their cooperators need and would like to do, but are unable to carry out without assistance. The districts have something to offer you in the way of technical service and we have the heavy equipment needed to carry out the ACP program.

The main question is - How can we both do a better job? I have a list here of several points - part of them my own and some that are recommendations sent to the districts by the State Committee.

1. The trend for permanent type practices in your program requires the services of our technicians. Would it be possible to eliminate some of the red tape in filling out forms or delegate the clerical work to someone other than the technician?
2. Assistance in permanent type practices are a big help to districts, but it tends to make the pendulum swing too far that way. Shouldn't we discourage a farmer from clearing land, or draining a swamp, or any practice that makes new land, when he is not getting anywhere near maximum production from the land he already has?

3. We should educate the public that soil conservation is a good thing for them, too. Any practice that tends to prevent a rapid run off of water during a storm or to hold the water back on the land during a drouth is as vital to the city dweller as it is to the rural people. It affects their water supply, the chance of floods, and the general prosperity of the community. Also, with the future in mind, we should sell this idea to our young people.

4. Is it not a challenge to all of us to find some tactful approach to those farmers using bad practices such as plowing down a slope and who do not receive any ACP benefits? There are still farmers who think that, if they sign up in any agency, the Government can tell them what they can and cannot do with their own land. Many farmers don't realize that the districts do not care whether they hire their own equipment or not, but the districts do mind when the free services of our technicians to lay out the work are not used. They should also know of the cost-sharing program of the ACP.

5. Something should be done about scheduling the time that our technicians spend making farm plans for district cooperators and that time spent on approving cost-sharing practices of the ACP. The technicians shouldn't get too far behind in either one.

6. Some of the county committeemen should attend the district meetings at the time districts are developing their annual work plan. The districts should let the ACP know when these meetings occur.

7. We should cooperate in seeing that farmers who have applied for permanent practices seriously intend to carry them out. I understand that last year only one farmer out of three requesting these practices actually carried them out. A reduction in this mortality would greatly increase the efficiency of our technicians.

8. I believe that we can work out most things together on a local level. For instance, I think it is too bad that farmers must now pay the full cost and wait months for the receipt of their Federal share cost. I think more farmers would cooperate in practices producing long-term benefits if there were prompt payment of the Federal share. In the soil conservation, we feel this because some farmers want to defer their payment for the equipment work we do until they get their money from the Government. You know we get no Federal aid and that all our work has to be self-sustaining. Perhaps you may know ways which may work for more prompt payment.

9. I think that the districts should cooperate with you whenever you have problems to work out on a National basis. We can do this by presenting the facts to our National association. I attended one of their district meetings when they sounded out the supervisors concerning Benson's reorganization plan. There I heard supervisors express themselves as well as anyone could and explain why the ACP should continue as it is and not be absorbed by any other agency.

## HOW I USE ACP IN MY EXTENSION PROGRAM

Address by William Stone, Windsor County Agent  
at Vermont State ASC Conference  
Burlington, Vermont, April 30, 1954

First let me make several statements regarding extension work - its aims, its objectives, its operation. Then I'll tie down just how I use ACP in my own program and lay down a few suggestions which are constructive in nature.

Any county extension program is geared to meet the needs of the folks in the area. Extension is teaching in its broadest sense, yet specific enough to be applied to an individual farm or situation. Further, the work includes information, coordination, and application of research. Extension has a responsibility not only to dairymen but to all types of enterprises as well as to people living in villages and other urban areas.

One indication of emphasis that I put on ACP is the time spent. From personal reports I find that anywhere from 15 - 25 days each year are put into the conservation effort. If I were to itemize the details they could be listed as follows: County committee meetings, program planning meetings, conferences, sign-up meetings, election meetings, community committee training schools, tours, and so on. It is needless to say that the program is followed all the way - from development to operation - each year.

I consider that extension has three rather well defined responsibilities to ACP - the legal, moral, and public relations angles. Legally we are members of the county committee in an ex-officio capacity. Morally we try to see that each farmer, each land owner, has the opportunity to use ACP - equally, meeting needs, and using practices which are of benefit to the land and the farm. Public Relations - naturally we use all the media at command to see that the job is done and done right.

In talking about the various ACP practices themselves we have come to commonly separate them into two groups - soil building and soil management. Under the first, I would list those dealing with minerals primarily and secondly the longer term, permanent type of land management ones. How an individual uses these practices directly affects his farm operations - in income, roughage production, cost of production, long-time plans, woodlot management, water supply, level of soil fertility, etc. So in one sense - use of ACP stimulates him to balance out his operation.

Over the years ACP has changed. In the early years, extension workers did a lot of groundwork with the usual amount of discouragement. They interpreted the program to the users and did quite a lot of actual program operations. Over the period extension has tried to get folks to recognize the "why" of program changes - in emphasis on practices, in operations, and in methods.

Now, and probably before, an agent looks upon ACP as one step or aid in obtaining the goal of better farming or better family living; as an aid in furthering research; as a chance to develop better farm management; and as part of the idea in development of leadership among farm people.

Of course, we find the more progressive men taking fuller advantage of ACP and using the program to progress along lines we all like to see a farm advance -- this is not serious for each farm is a business with development, credit, size, management, etc., in different stages of balance.

In the future - the trend toward more coordination of work between agencies is good with efficiency only one advantage. The trend toward more coordination of work by agencies on any one farm is good.

Extension and I as an agent, have a responsibility to see that ACP and other farm programs are used by each and every individual farm - to fit them into the farm operation and work toward the goals such as meeting needs of land and family. The public has accepted their part in soil conservation - we should accept ours, and to see that the advance on any farm is within the management ability, situation, and economic conditions.

We will always have to recognize that some folks will be more cooperative, more progressive, and more individualistic than others. That's the country we live in, I would say. But - if an extension worker has his eyes open, a good program - ACP can help him as much as he helps it. Working together we always get more done on any job.

## CHANGES IN SCS SET-UP AS THEY AFFECT VERMONT

Address by L. J. Peet, State Conservationist, SCS  
at Vermont State ASC Conference  
Burlington, Vermont, April 30, 1954

During the past few months there has been a good bit in magazines and newspapers about a reorganization of the SCS. This reorganization is being made to enable SCS to give even better service to farmers and develop more effective working relationships with State and local agencies.

All of the changes in organization are at the State level and above. The field organization is unchanged. The field will be affected only as it may get poorer or better service through the State Office than it formerly received from the Regional and State Office together.

Our field organization in Vermont consists of eight work units in the northern part of the State and eight work units in the southern part. Each work unit is staffed with at least one soil conservationist and one conservation aid. The soil conservationist in charge is called a work unit conservationist. We also have four soil scientists engaged in soils mapping work and one engineer in both the northern and southern halves of the State. In each half of the State we also have an area conservationist (Floyd Campbell at Morrisville and Allen Gray at Rutland). The area conservationists are responsible for giving over-all supervision and direction to the work of work unit conservationists, soil scientists, and engineers to bring about the best possible use of all of the resources of the Service in their area. In essence they are production managers. Each area conservationist has a clerk - the only two clerks in the field organization.

The changes at the State level and above are as follows: The State Office is being enlarged and strengthened. Regional offices have been discontinued. The technical and business management services formerly rendered by regional offices are being transferred in part to State offices and in part to the Washington Office. The transfer very largely is to the State offices with a very small part transferred to the Washington Office.

Under the reorganization all State offices will consist of a program services staff and a business management staff. In Vermont the program services staff will consist of three positions - State soil scientist, State soil conservationist, and State conservation engineer. These positions are presently filled by Montague Howard, Jr., Selden Tinsley, and Charles Fogg, respectively. Mr. Fogg is located at Durham, New Hampshire and serves both New Hampshire and Vermont. This staff will be responsible for the development of policies for the State dealing with the technical phases of soil conservation work and for providing <sup>specialized</sup> technical assistance to the field organization. On them will rest the responsibility for seeing that a good job is done technically and that use is made of the most <sup>recent</sup> technical information in the field of soil and water conservation.

We have hitherto had in the State one man - Brooks Kerchner -- to handle business management or housekeeping functions. We are adding one man and either one or two clerks to perform the additional functions being transferred to the State office.

The reasons which have been given for the changes in organization are as follows:

1. Maintenance of both State and regional offices involves a degree of duplication.
2. Basic units in performance of soil conservation functions are soil conservation districts which are organized and maintained under State laws. Therefore, State offices are the appropriate means for carrying out the Federal functions and responsibilities in this program of soil conservation.
3. In reorganizing the Department the Secretary was directed by the Congress to place the administration of the farm program close to State and local levels. The change in organization will accomplish decentralization.
4. Through State offices farmers' opinions can be more readily incorporated in the program of SCS.
5. The SCS activities within the State will be more responsive to local needs.
6. Decisions can be made more quickly.
7. Working relations with State and local agencies will be facilitated.

The SCS continues as the Department's technical service agency in the field of soil and water conservation and flood prevention.

Formerly, the SCS was responsible for conducting research in soil and water conservation. This responsibility has now been transferred to the Agricultural Research Administration. In the future the SCS will look to the ARA and State Experiment Stations for the solution through research of soil and water conservation problems.

Responsibility for the national cooperative soil survey formerly rested with the Bureau of Plant Industry. This survey is being carried out nationally in cooperation with State Agricultural Experiment Stations. The SCS is now responsible for the Department's part in the national cooperative soil survey. It will continue to be carried out in cooperation with the State Agricultural Experiment Station. The taking on of this additional work considerably broadens and adds to the job of the State soil scientist.

Considerable fear was expressed by certain groups over the possibility that the reorganization of SCS might result in the combining of the Extension Service and the SCS. On October 27, 1953 Secretary Benson

addressed a letter to all of the 2,500 boards of district supervisors in the United States, in which he stated as follows:

- "1. I have no desire to see them (SCS and EXT) combined.
- "2. These agencies have different functions and therefore the work ought to be done in separate organizations, separate agencies.
- "3. I feel that the Soil Conservation Service must continue. It is an important one."

As a matter of fact, the basis for improved and strengthened working relationships has already been developed between these two agencies at the Federal level and is in the process of being developed at the State level.

Other groups expressed fear that the reorganization would result in a change in relationships between the Department and local soil conservation districts. On December 22 Secretary Benson addressed another letter to all boards of district supervisors throughout the United States in which he stated as follows:

"I want you to know that the Department believes wholeheartedly in Soil Conservation Districts and fully appreciates their role of leadership and their contribution in this great undertaking. We are determined to carry out a dynamic and more effective national program of soil and water conservation, including the protection and improvement of soil and water resources on individual farms and ranches and on entire watersheds. We will administer this program through the Soil Conservation Service."

I believe these letters and similar statements issued by the Secretary and officials in the Office of the Secretary have done much to allay many of the fears which were first expressed when the reorganization was announced.

The reorganization will be completed by June 30. It will take a little time to get adjusted to operating on a State basis. I believe we can operate on that basis effectively. We are committed to do so and are going to do our utmost to make it a success.



## HOW TO STIMULATE MORE FORESTRY PRACTICES

Note: At the time of preparing this report a digest of the comments made by A. W. Gottlieb, Vermont State Forest Service, and Gerald Wheeler, U. S. Forest Service, had not been received. Therefore, they could not be included in this report.



## SUGGESTIONS FOR A CONSERVATION INFORMATION PROGRAM

Address by Robert P. Davison,  
Associate Director of Extension, UVM  
at the State ASC Conference  
Burlington, Vermont - April 30, 1954

We should first take a look at the job to be done. We should determine how large it is, whom it should inform, and what it should tell about. Having determined this, then we can go on and decide how to best handle the over-all job.

In looking at the conservation information job I would list the groups to be reached about as follows:

1. City and rural folks not on farms. This group should be told the story of soil and water conservation, and the need for it, how they will benefit from it, how much it costs to carry out, and how it ties in with the rest of our economy and society.
2. Farmers who operate the land and forests are the next group that should receive conservation information. The programs should show them the need for conservation, the difference between using materials for conservation and production, and above all, the need to protect the soil, water, and forests for future generations.
3. In addition to the above, a sound information program dealing with conservation should inform farmers of the use of practices, so as to get the most conservation. This becomes the educational part of the program, and deals to a large extent with individual farm management practices, and especially how various ACP practices can be fitted in to a long-time farm management plan on individual farms. In addition to this, a good informational program should tell farmers how they can get the job done, what agencies can help them, etc.

Now as to how to do the job--First, I would like to point out that we in the Extension Service, and you people in the ASC (formerly FMA) work under an agreement in connection with the information side of the ACP program. Our Extension Editor's office works closely with the State ASC Office, as well as the State Soil Conservation Service Office, and is responsible for releasing all news items, radio work, and assists with bulletins when requested. When the ASC office has news, they bring it to our Extension Editor's office for writing, and he releases it to the press and radio right along with our regular news service. This includes all of the daily and weekly newspapers in the State, and some eleven radio stations. This system is working well, and there seems to be no reason to expect that it will not continue to be effective in the future.

At the county level, our news services are available on such a basis as can be worked out locally between the county agricultural agent and the ASC committee.

I know that in most of the counties these arrangements have been worked out satisfactorily, and, while there may be some local difficulties, in general information relative to the ACP program is being handled very well through the county arrangements that are now in existence.

Some suggestions for getting information out from your offices are as follows:

1. Don't try to propagandize the program as such--this is not information and will not be used very much by newspapers, news services, etc.
2. Try to put out information that will help folks understand the why of your conservation practices as such.
3. Be sure your information is news. You want it to be printed--it must be newsy for the press to use it.
4. Provide plenty of human interest angles with your information. Names of people are important. Quotations of statements of cooperators in certain phases of the program are helpful. Radio interviews are good.
5. Keep your information material short and to the point.
6. Get your information to your county agent early and have it in keeping with what he can use. (Special stories, columns, radio, etc.)

ASC STATE CONFERENCE  
Burlington, Vermont  
April 29-30, 1954

Program Planning Recommendations - 1955 Agricultural Conservation Program

The committee on program planning submits the following recommendations for the consideration of the full conference. For convenience, these recommendations are listed as nearly as possible in the order in which they were taken up at the county meetings.

Background Statement

These recommendations took into consideration the National goals as outlined by the Washington staff of the Agricultural Conservation Program Service and are based upon the desires of our Vermont people as expressed in a series of county meetings which were held in every Vermont county. These meetings were attended by community committeemen, county committeemen and technical people at the county level. The delegates at this conference had before them the county recommendations and the technical group recommendations and gave full consideration to the respective recommendations.

Importance of Minerals to Conservation

We believe here in Vermont that minerals have a very definite place in our Agricultural Conservation Program. We submit that, through the use of minerals, we have built up a good sod and can continue to keep a good sod. We further submit that, in order to get minerals used in our State to the extent needed, we need some kind of a cost-sharing program similar to the Agricultural Conservation Program. We agree that certain restrictions and refinements should be placed on the use of minerals in the State and that we should move towards the goal of having the farmer pay a continually larger share of the cost. It is pointed out that we have already invested quite a lot of public funds in the use of minerals under our program and it would therefore seem a wise move to protect that investment by authorizing continued use of these minerals.

The Agricultural Conservation Program is more than an aid to agriculture. It is and should be a program for the National conservation of all of our resources. To this end, the city folks and the farm folks must work together to build up soil fertility and keep soil fertility reserve on hand when needed.

We believe very definitely that liming is a must for the practices in Vermont. Our College, Experiment Station, Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service and all of our groups are behind this practice and point out that it is a very good practice and leads to a permanent type of agriculture. We therefore want to make it emphatic that a practice for lime must be included in the 1955 program. We further submit that we cannot agree with the initial application concept as it was applied in 1954. We believe that the assistance should be gauged to the need for individual practices on the farm rather than saying that we will help once and then won't help again.

We believe that the use of superphosphate with manure is one of our most important practices. By using super and manure, you conserve nitrogen, you get the farmer to make better use of the manure and you get a balanced fertilizer.

In addition to this, the mixed fertilizer practice is a must in our scheme of farming. By the using of lime, super and mixed fertilizer, we are convinced that you can establish better sod in our grassland form of farming and thereby prevent the work of additional permanent type practices at a later date. In other words, the expenditure of funds now to use minerals to keep the land in good condition means we won't have to patch it up later on.

#### Program Policies

We have the following comments to make in regard to the program policies as they were outlined last year. We agree that the National program should be developed as it has been in the past. State and county committees and participating agencies should be given an opportunity to help develop such a program and it should include provisions for the addition of limitations and restrictions which might be needed in any particular area. The program should be confined to conservation practices on which Federal cost-sharing is most needed in order to achieve the maximum conservation benefit in any particular State or county.

We believe that costs should be shared only on those practices which will not be carried out to the needed extent without program assistance, but we do not believe that it is practicable or desirable to try to limit cost shares or to try to withhold cost shares of practices which may have become a part of the regular farming operations on some particular farm. After we have decided what practices are needed in our State, we must then make them available to all participating. We should try through persuasion to get the farmer to carry out additional conservation.

We believe that the steps that have been taken in the last two or three years in our State have placed additional emphasis on the permanent type practices such as woodland improvement, tree planting and water conservation practices. As to the use of funds for enduring type practices, we believe that the establishment of a permanent sod is an enduring type practice in our State. It is therefore proper that a large portion of our funds continue to be used for the mineral practices which lead to the establishment of better sod.

We believe that the farmer should assume responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of practices such as ditching, ponds, woodland improvement, and similar ones which have a high cost of initial installation. We believe, however that it is right and in the public interest to assist in the use of minerals year after year to the extent needed on a particular farm. Additional steps should be taken to see that the minerals go only on those areas where most efficient use can be made of them. We further feel that the farmer should continue to pay a higher share of the cost. For example, in the case of mixed fertilizers, we believe that, if the Government only puts in about 1/3 of the cost, it is a good public investment.

We believe that the package concept is sound to the extent utilized in our State under the 1954 program. We do not recommend its further extension in connection with the use of mineral practices.

In connection with any additional authority needed at the local level, we believe that the continuation of the provisions under last year's program, if they are adequately used, are adequate.

Practice Recommendations

We have the following recommendations in connection with specific practices. Our references in connection with these practices will be to the 1954 or 1953 State Practice Handbook approved for Vermont.

Practice No. 1 - Lime

We believe that the practice offered in 1954 should be continued with the reference to initial treatment removed.

Practice No. 2 - Mixed Fertilizer

The mixed fertilizer practice should be offered as it was under the 1953 Vermont program with the additional restriction that the fertilizer used would be eligible for cost-sharing only when used on areas that have received adequate lime.

Practice 17(a) - Superphosphate

A superphosphate practice should be offered as under the 1954 program except that it should <sup>not</sup> be confined to initial treatment. This means that the practice for the use of super will be tied in with its use with manure.

Practice 3 - Planting or Replanting Trees

The group agreed that the practice should be offered as in 1954 but that the cost share should be changed to read: "\$1.50 per 100 trees not to exceed \$15.00 per acre."

Practice 4 - Initial Improvement of Stand of Forest Trees

The practice should be offered as in 1954 with the removal of the word "initial." The rate of payment should be changed to "50% of the cost not to exceed \$20.00 per acre."

Practice 5 - Protection of Farm Woodland from Grazing by Construction of Fences

The practice should be continued as in 1954.

The group agreed that practices 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 should be offered as in 1954 with the exception that in the case of practice 12 the cost share should be changed to read: "70% of the cost of earth moving" instead of "50% of the cost."

Practice 17(b) - Obstruction Removal

This practice should be continued as in 1954 except that, when the specifications are written up on the practice, they should not restrict the use of a farmer's own work tools.

Additional Practices

The group considered the several additional practices which were recommended by the various counties. Since there was only one county recommending each of the practices, it appeared that the most practical solution of this was to allow each county to write up their desires under the special practice provisions contained in the State handbook.

Conservation Materials and Services

The group agreed that we should continue to use conservation materials and services under contract in 1955 as we did in 1954.

The individual types of conservation materials and services to be furnished within a county should be left up to the determination of that county. Also, the type of lime they would like to have, whether they would like 80 lbs. or 100 lbs. in the individual bags.

In connection with establishing cash collections on the materials, the group agreed that the policy followed in 1954 should be continued in 1955. That is, in the case of lime, there should be an individual rate computed in each county but the ratio of the amount a farmer pays and the Government pays should be the same for the State. In the case of superphosphate and mixed fertilizer, the policy should be to get an average cost for the material across the State and to base county collections on this average cost.

In connection with cash collections, the following recommendations were made:

For lime, the farmer should pay 50% of the cost and the Government 50% of the cost.

For superphosphate, the farmer should pay 60% of the cost and the Government 40% of the cost.

For mixed fertilizer, the farmer should pay 2/3 of the cost and the Government should pay 1/3 of the cost.

In connection with the kind of mixed fertilizer to be furnished in an individual county, it was agreed that the State Committee should get bids on all of the various kinds and then make known to the counties the prices together with whatever other information is available at that time and then the counties should be allowed to make the decisions as to the type of mixed fertilizer to be offered in their individual counties.

In connection with the soil sampling service, the desirability of furnishing forest trees, land clearing or ditching, it was agreed that this should be worked out county by county and that any county that wants to furnish service should be allowed to do so.

In regard to soil sampling, it was agreed that this was a county problem and should be worked out county by county.

If trees are furnished as contract material, the farmer should be expected to pay 50% of the cost and the Government 50% of the cost.

Respectfully submitted,

*Hugh E. Evans*

Hugh E. Evans  
For the Program Planning Committee

Hugh Evans, Chairman  
Howard Foster, Vice Chairman  
A. F. Heald, Secretary

Other members of the Program Planning Committee

Howard A. Foster, Addison County  
E. W. Mattison, Bennington County  
Norman Lowe, Caledonia County  
Raymond G. Rowley, Chittenden County  
G. N. Baldwin, Chittenden County  
Fritz Farmer, Essex County  
Floyd Weld, Franklin County  
Alan K. Kinney, Grand Isle County  
Lawrence Gregory, Lamoille County  
F. Milo Leighton, Orange County  
Robert P. Kilborn, Orleans County  
Roy A. Burroughs, Rutland County  
D. Drew Bisbee, Washington County  
Robert E. Gaines, Windham County  
Ruel Abbott, Windsor County

Others contributing to the discussion included:

Extension Service representatives  
Forest Service representative  
Thomas F. Macauley  
C. Ely Wickham, Area Director (NE), CSS

Note: This report was adopted at the conference with no changes.



ASC STATE CONFERENCE  
Burlington, Vermont  
April 29-30, 1954

Report of ACP Program Operations Committee

The committee discussed various phases and problems concerning the operation of the ACP. We present to the conference as a whole for its consideration and adoption the following recommendations:

Section A -- Sign-up

1. Method of Enrollment

The method of enrollment should be left to the individual counties.

2. Enrollment Periods

This matter should be decided by the county committee when the county allocation of program funds is known.

3. Cost-sharing Limited to Prior Requests

Prior approval of practices should be requested by the farmer and approved before carrying out the practice.

4. Breakdown of Program Funds to the Farm

- a. Funds should be set up on individual farms based on practice needs.
- b. Approval for a guaranteed minimum assistance and maximum assistance depending on funds available should be given for each practice.
- c. Assistance should be directed to the most needed practices as determined by the farmer.

5. Policy on Cash Collections

This policy should be left to the individual county committee.

6. Instructions for County Committee, Office Manager, and Community Committeemen

Sign-up instructions should be written by the State Committee and State Office as in the past.

7. Form ACP-201 (Farmer's Request), Form ACP-245 (Approval Notice, etc.), and Form ACP-247 (Tentative Approval for Permanent Type Practices)

- a. Form ACP-201 should provide more lines for listing practices and the line numbers should be omitted.

b. Form ACP-245 as presently printed should be eliminated. We further recommend that the State Office develop simplified forms for Notice of Approval, Report of Performance and Application for Payment.

c. Form ACP-247 should be adapted to cover both forestry practices and SCS practices. We further recommend that this form should not be sent to the farmer until the SCS technician and/or county forester has made his prior recommendations.

#### Section E -- Performance

##### 1. Method of Checking Performance

Performance should be checked by the community committeeman at the time of sign-up.

##### 2. Requirements for Evidence of Performance

for sales slips

Requirements/should be as stated in the 1953 ACP checking instructions.

We further recommend that the evidence required for cash practices involving payments based on percentage of cost should be in the form of a certified statement of cost of labor and equipment provided by the farmer and/or proper bills for labor, equipment hire and material purchased by the farmer.

##### 3. Deadline Date for Filing Performance Reports

The report of performance and evidence of practices carried out should be filed not later than January 15 following the end of the program year.

##### 4. Instructions for County Committee, Office Manager and Community Committeemen

Instructions should be written by the State Committee and State Office as in the past.

#### Section C -- Applications for Payment

##### 1. Earlier Payments

In view of the present provisions for processing applications for payment the committee has no further suggestions.

##### 2. Deadline for Filing Applications for Payment

The deadline date for filing applications for payment should be May 31 of the following year.

##### 3. Small Payment Increase

The small payment increase as presently set up should be continued.

Members of Committee

Robert Highter	Edla Browne	Addison
Ball L. Lyons		Bennington
Donald Larocque	Mildred Murphy	Caledonia
Ray J. Collins		Chittenden
C. E. Wright	Mildred Bell	Essex
B. Frank Hyott*		Franklin
Ernest G. Frairie	Grace Hazen	Grand Isle
Lawrence Sinclair		Lamoille
Edson E. Gifford		Orange
Clyde S. Vance		Orleans
James E. Brayton	Bethany French	Rutland
W. J. Bisson		Washington
Claude Bensenhaver	Mae Carpenter	Windham
Lloyd Jewett		Windsor

\*Absent by reason

Visitors

C. Ely Wickham	Area Director (NE), CSS
William Stone	Windsor County Agent
Marcia Tudhope	Vermont State Office
Madelene Bevins	Vermont State Office

*L. Earl Wilson*

L. Earl Wilson, Chairman  
Lloyd Jewett, Vice Chairman  
C. B. Doane, Secretary

Note: This report is based on the conference committee recommendations and includes the changes as adopted by the general conference.



ASC STATE CONFERENCE  
Burlington, Vermont  
April 29-30, 1954

Report of the Administrative Problems and  
Related Activities Committee

The committee wishes to make the following recommendations for consideration of the conference as a whole in regard to the administrative problems and related activities of the ASC program at the county level:

1. Secretary's Regulations

The committee reviewed the Secretary's Regulations, revised as of January 27, 1954, and agreed that these would be acceptable for use in all counties.

2. County Elections

The committee reviewed preliminary instructions prepared for county election meetings and recommended that they be adopted for use at county election meetings. They also reviewed the summary of 1954 community election meetings which had previously been sent out to all counties.

The committee favored holding community election meetings as individual communities, or two or more communities together where it seemed advantageous. The majority did not favor holding elections by mail. The committee voted that it be left optional with counties to hold meetings either by individual communities, by grouping two or more communities, or by mail.

The committee stressed the importance of election meetings being well organized and well announced, and recommended that community committeemen contact farmers by telephone or personal call the day of the meeting in order to get as large an attendance as possible. The county agent should be invited to all meetings.

It was also recommended that election meetings be held prior to training schools where possible.

3. County Committee Supervision

There were no particular problems in connection with the supervision of county office personnel.

The committee unanimously agreed that office personnel should keep records up to date.

The committee recommended that community committeemen should come in to the county office soon after they start sign-up work in order to have their work checked by the county office manager. They also agreed that community committeemen needed closer supervision to be sure that they were filling in all information required by instructions on sign-up and report of performance forms. They also recommended that frequent supervision be made of consignees, especially new consignees. It was left up to the county committee to decide whether farm contacts for informing farmers about the program should be by meetings of farmers or visits to individual farms.

#### 4. County Committee Meetings

In a discussion of county committee meetings it was found that 8 counties are now holding regular meetings on a fixed day each month, and the remaining counties when deemed necessary.

The committee recommended that all counties hold at least one meeting a month on a date determined at the previous meeting by the county committee and county office manager.

The committee recommended that minutes of county committee meetings be prepared promptly after the meeting, and that two copies of the minutes be sent to the State Office. These minutes should show in sufficient detail the business conducted. The importance of accurate and detailed minutes was stressed. Samples of good and poor minutes of county committee meetings were reviewed.

#### 5. Employee's Suggestion Program

The Employee's Suggestion Program was discussed by the committee and it was recommended that this program be made available to county personnel.

#### 6. County Training Schools

The matter of holding one or two day training schools was discussed and the committee recommended that one day training schools should be held. They recommended that prior to the training schools a meeting of the county committee, county office manager and fieldman be held to review the instructions and complete plans for the training schools. They recommended that where Farm Plans existed the community committeemen should make use of these plans in helping the farmer to determine the ACP practices most needed on his farm.

#### 7. County Practice Handbooks

A discussion of whether the handbooks should be printed or mimeographed resulted in the recommendation that county practice handbooks be printed. It was recommended that the handbooks be given to the farmer at the time of sign-up. It was recommended that a copy of a sign-up form be included in the handbook and that this form be filled in by the committeeman before leaving the handbook with the farmer.

It was recommended that adequate time for preparation of the printed handbook be made available between the announcement of the program and the training schools.

#### 8. Prior Approval Work

The committee recommended that prior approval forms be furnished to the Forest Service and SCS as soon after sign-up as possible in order that these agencies may be able to make their farm contacts as early as possible.

9. Public Relations

a. News Releases, Radio Work, Publications, Visual Aids and Reference Cards

The committee recommended continuation of the present method of handling news releases, radio work and publications. They also recommended the continued use of visual aids, especially slides of pictures taken within the county. Reference cards furnished to counties from the State Office were found to be very useful at meetings. The committee recommended that more of this form of information be made available to county committees.

b. Meetings With Organizations

The committee recommended that county committees continue to work with other organizations, especially Extension Service, SCS, and FS. They also recommended inviting to county committee meetings representatives of all agencies concerned with problems that county committees have at a particular time.

c. County News Letters

The committee recommended that counties make a greater effort to get out at least a few news letters each year.

d. County ASC Tours

The committee recommended that counties organize one-day tours to visit farms that carry out ACP practices and that transportation be paid from administrative funds.

e. Farmer-Businessman Dinners

The committee recommended that meetings of this type should be held in all counties where possible.

10. Price Support Programs

The National Wheat Program and Potato Acreage Guides were discussed and it was recommended that farmers be kept currently informed of price support activities in order that they may make full use of these programs.

Members of Committee

Sedgewick Preston		Addison
Clyde H. Bryant		Bennington
Arthur Messier		Caledonia
Frank R. O'Brien		Chittenden
Ray W. French		Essex
Stuart Newton		Franklin
George Caswell		Grand Isle
Howard T. Kittell		Lamoille
Walter Wheatley		Orange
Eldon Lucier		Orleans
Charles L. Winslow		Rutland
Everett Walbridge		Washington
Myron W. Allen		Windham
Max Rogers		Windsor
	John DeVito	
	Dorothy Howard	
	Avis Bronson	
	Hazel Hoyt	
	Patricia Norway*	
	Marjorie Leith	
	Betty Dutton	

\*Not present

Visitors

C. Ely Wickham	Area Director (NE), CSS
Merrill Walker	Vermont State Employment Service
Madelene Bevins	Vermont State Office
Bertha Saunders	Vermont State Office

*J. W. Williams Jr.*

J. W. Williams, Chairman  
Stuart Newton, Vice Chairman  
Edward N. Blondin, Secretary

Note: This report is based on the conference committee recommendations and includes the changes as adopted by the general conference.

## CONFERENCE SUMMARY

By L. Earl Wilson, Chairman, Vermont ASC State Committee  
at the  
Annual Vermont ASC Conference  
Hotel Vermont, Burlington, Vermont

April 30, 1954

Very briefly, I want to give you a summary of our conference. Yesterday morning we heard a very fine talk on the need for minerals in this area by Dr. William Colby. Once again this refreshed our thinking on the basic need of ACP practices as we have developed them.

Fred Kitchie then brought us some of the thinking at the Washington level which helped us in our discussions.

Last evening at the banquet, while the program was long, I believe that if you think about the talks of Mr. Berger and Frank Branom, you will agree that they brought out the most important problems facing Agriculture today.

This forenoon the speakers brought out ways and means of cooperation among agencies to do the best job in conservation. The working committees have brought in their recommendations and they have been adopted. So, whatever we have for a program it is our duty to administer it to the best of our ability.



## OTHER CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

### Professor Newlander Entertains

Immediately following the conference banquet, Professor John Newlander of the College of Agriculture, UVM, entertained the group with some interesting and intricate tricks of magic. This was a pleasant interlude between the meal and the speeches.

### State Committee Alumni

At the banquet a special table was reserved for the State Committee Alumni. The following were present: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Macauley of Shoreham, Mr. and Mrs. William F. Sinclair of Johnson, Mr. E. K. Wright of Westminster, and Mr. Arthur Packard of Jericho.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Frank Branen and Mr. and Mrs. George Bailey were also present and seated at the head table. Mr. Branen, who is a member of the President's National Agricultural Advisory Commission, spoke to the group on the work of the Commission. Mr. Bailey served as toastmaster and during the evening was presented with a beautiful cake in honor of his birthday.

### Area Director Present

C. Ely Wickham, Area Director (NE), CSS, attended all sessions of the conference and contributed his ideas throughout the meeting.

### Other Visitors

During the general discussion of program problems on the second day, two of our guests contributed valuable information. Major Merton Ashton, Assistant Director of Selective Service, discussed the regulations pertaining to Selective Service. He reviewed those regulations pertaining to farm deferment. There were several questions asked on this subject during the discussion period.

Mr. Merrill Walker, State Farm Placement Supervisor, reviewed the farm labor situation and the possibilities of out-of-state, especially Canadian labor. He had several questions to answer, particularly regarding immigration regulations concerning Canadian labor coming into Vermont to work on farms.

### Exhibit

An exhibit of charts and pictures concerning the Agricultural Conservation Program in Vermont attracted considerable attention.





